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Appl. No. 10/626,913
Amdt. dated June 19, 2006
Reply to Office action of March 20, 2006

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application:

Listing of Claims:

1 1. (currently amended) An anchor assembly for supporting an
2 axially-elongate tubular post insertable and removable from the anchor assembly,
3 the post being non-concrete, having an arcuate exterior profile and having at least a
4 hollow lower end bounded by an arcuate interior surface, the assembly including:
5 a tubular anchor body extending along an axis and having a hollow interior
6 with an arcuate interior cross-sectional area, the hollow interior of the anchor body
7 having two open ends and being configured to receive the post within the hollow
8 interior of the anchor body from one open end; and
9 a base plate connected to and closing the end of the anchor body opposite to
10 the end that receives the post, the base plate having an arcuate portion shaped
11 congruently to the arcuate cross-sectional area of the interior of the anchor body and
12 mated into the interior of the anchor body, the base plate having an upstanding
13 arcuate conical portion located within the interior of the anchor body, the conical
14 portion having a cross-sectional area that is complementary to the hollow lower end
15 of the post and having a greatest radial dimension at a base of the conical portion,
16 the anchor body and the conical portion bounding an annular space that extends
17 about the conical portion for receiving the hollow lower end of the post, the greatest
18 radial dimension of the conical portion being greater than a complementary
19 dimension of the interior surface of the post to cause the interior surface of the post
20 to slide over the conical portion and the conical portion to frictionally engage the post
21 such that the hollow lower end of the post wedges against the conical portion within

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22 the annular space to prevent lateral movement of the post relative to the base plate,
23 and without any structure connected to and above the base plate that prevents
24 removal of the post from the conical portion and anchor body.

1 2. (currently amended) An anchor assembly as set forth in claim 1,
2 wherein the anchor body has a circular interior cross-sectional area, bounded by a
3 cylindrical surface of the anchor body, to receive the post which has a circular
4 exterior profile, the arcuate portion of the base plate is upstanding, circular and has
5 a radially outer surface shaped as a cylinder to mate with the cylindrical surface of
6 the anchor body that bounds the circular cross-section anchor body, and the conical
7 portion of the base plate is a circular conic.

1 3. (currently amended) An anchor assembly as set forth in claim 1,
2 wherein the conical portion of the base plate is a truncated conic, and the
3 conical portion is spaced radially inward from the anchor body at the greatest
4 radial dimension of the conical portion such that the annular space that
5 extends about the conical portion extends to the greatest radial dimension of the
6 conical portion to receive the lower end of the post.

1 4. (currently amended) An anchor assembly as set forth in claim 1,
2 wherein the conical portion of the base plate has an axially extending opening to
3 receive a retaining member for retaining the base plate stationary while the tubular
4 post is inserted and removed from the anchor assembly.

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1 5. (currently amended) An anchor assembly as set forth in claim 1,
2 wherein the base plate has an arcuate flange that extends in an outward radial
3 direction from the arcuate portion of the base plate, the flange of the base plate has
4 an outermost radial extent that is greater than an outermost radial extent of the
5 anchor body.

1 6. (currently amended) An anchor assembly as set forth in claim 1,
2 wherein the post is rigid to permit insertion and removal, the greatest radial
3 dimension of the conical portion of the base plate is sufficiently large to cause
4 frictional engagement with the rigid post at a location of the post that is spaced from
5 the arcuate portion of the base plate such that the rigid post is stopped before
6 reaching the arcuate portion.

1 7. (currently amended) A base plate insert for use with an
2 axially-elongate tubular anchor body within an anchor assembly for supporting an
3 axially-elongate tubular post, the anchor body having a hollow interior with an
4 arcuate interior cross-sectional area, bounded by a cylindrical surface of the anchor
5 body, and the hollow interior having two open ends and being configured to receive
6 the tubular post from one open end, and the tubular post being insertable and
7 removable from the anchor body, the post being non-concrete, having an arcuate
8 exterior profile and having at least a hollow lower end bounded by an interior
9 surface, the base plate for connection to and closing of the end of the anchor body
10 opposite to the end that receives the post, the base plate including:
11 an upstanding arcuate portion shaped congruently to the arcuate cross-
12 sectional area of the anchor body for mating into the cross-sectional area of the

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13 interior of the anchor body, a radially outer surface of the arcuate portion being
14 shaped as a cylinder to mate with the cylindrical surface of the anchor body; and
15 an upstanding arcuate conical portion for location within the interior of the
16 anchor body, the conical portion being rigid and non-deflecting, and having a
17 cross-sectional area that is complementary to the hollow lower end of the post and
18 having a greatest radial dimension at a base of the conical portion, tapering of the
19 conical portion providing an annular space that extends about the conical portion for
20 receipt of the hollow lower end of the tube, the greatest radial dimension of the
21 conical portion being greater than a complementary dimension of the interior surface
22 of the post for causing the interior surface of the post to slide over the conical portion
23 and the conical portion to frictionally engage the post such that the hollow lower end
24 of the post wedges against the conical portion within the annular space to prevent
25 lateral movement of the post relative to the base plate, and without any structure
26 connected to and above the base plate that prevents removal of the post from the
27 conical portion and anchor body.

1 8. (currently amended) A base plate insert as set forth in claim 7,
2 wherein the cylindrical surface of the arcuate portion of the base plate is circular to
3 mate with a complementary circular cross-section of the cylindrical surface of the
4 anchor body, and the conical portion of the base plate is a circular conic.

1 9. (original) A base plate insert as set forth in claim 9, wherein the
2 conical portion of the base plate is a truncated conic.

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1 10. (currently amended) A base plate insert as set forth in claim 7,
2 wherein the conical portion of the base plate has an axially extending opening to
3 receive a retaining member for retaining the base plate stationary while the tubular
4 post is inserted and removed from the anchor assembly.

1 11. (currently amended) A base plate insert as set forth in claim 7,
2 wherein the base plate has an arcuate flange that extends in an outward radial
3 direction from the arcuate portion of the base plate for a radial distance that is
4 greater than an outermost radial extent of the anchor body.

1 12. (currently amended) A base plate insert as set forth in claim 7,
2 wherein the greatest radial dimension of the conical portion of the base plate is
3 sufficiently large to cause frictional engagement with the post at a location of the
4 post that is spaced from the arcuate portion of the base plate such that the rigid post
5 is stopped before reaching the arcuate portion.

1 13. (currently amended) A base plate insert as set forth in claim 7,
2 wherein the conical portion is circumferentially continuous and without seam.

1 14. (previously presented) A base plate insert as set forth in claim 7,
2 wherein a greatest radial dimension of the arcuate portion is greater than a greatest
3 radial dimension of the conical portion.

1 15. (currently amended) An anchor assembly for supporting an
2 axially-elongate tubular post insertable and removable from the anchor assembly.

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3 the post being non-concrete, having an arcuate exterior profile and having at least a
4 hollow lower end bounded by an interior surface, the assembly including:

5 surface means, extending along an axis and providing a hollow arcuate
6 interior cross-sectional area, for receiving the post, the hollow interior of the surface
7 means having two open ends with the post extending into the interior of the surface
8 means from one open end; and

9 a base plate located at and closing the end of the surface means opposite to
10 the end that receives the post, the base plate having an arcuate portion shaped
11 congruently to the arcuate cross-sectional area of the interior of the surface means
12 and mated into the cross-sectional area of the surface means, the base plate having
13 an upstanding arcuate conical portion located within the interior of the anchor body,
14 the conical portion having a cross-sectional area that is complementary to the hollow
15 lower end of the post and having a greatest radial dimension at a base of the conical
16 portion, the anchor body and the surface means bounding an annular area space
17 that extends about the conical portion for receiving the hollow lower end of the post,
18 the greatest radial dimension of the conical portion being greater than a
19 complementary dimension of the interior surface of the post to cause the interior
20 surface of the post to slide over the conical portion and the conical portion to
21 frictionally engage the post such that the hollow lower end of the post wedges
22 against the conical portion within the annular space to prevent lateral movement of
23 the post relative to the base plate, and without any structure connected to and above
24 the base plate that prevents removal of the post from the conical portion and anchor
25 body.

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1 16. (currently amended) An anchor assembly as set forth in claim
2 15, wherein the surface means has a circular interior cross-sectional area, bounded
3 by a cylindrical surface of the surface means, to receive the post which has a circular
4 exterior profile, the arcuate portion of the base plate is upstanding, circular and has
5 a radially outer surface shaped as a cylinder to mate with the cylindrical surface that
6 bounds the circular cross-section of the surface means, and the conical portion of
7 the base plate is a circular conic.

1 17. (previously presented) An anchor assembly as set forth in
2 claim 15, wherein the conical portion of the base plate is a truncated conic.

1 18. (currently amended) An anchor assembly as set forth in
2 claim 15, wherein the conical portion of the base plate has an axially extending
3 opening to receive a retaining member for retaining the base plate stationary while
4 the tubular post is inserted and removed from the anchor assembly.

1 19. (currently amended) An anchor assembly as set forth in
2 claim 15, wherein the base plate has an arcuate flange that extends in an outward
3 radial direction from the arcuate portion of the base plate, the flange of the base
4 plate has an outermost radial extent that is greater than a radial distance to the
5 surface means.

1 20. (currently amended) An anchor assembly as set forth in
2 claim 15, wherein the greatest radial dimension of the conical portion of the base
3 plate is sufficiently large to cause frictional engagement with the post at a location of

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- 4 the post that is spaced from the arcuate portion of the base plate such that the post
- 5 is stopped before reaching the arcuate portion.